Monitoring of crustal movements

1806. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that scientists have cautioned, about the possibility of major earthquake in some parts of India.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had taken steps to monitor the crustal movements; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to forecast the occurrence of earthquakes in terms of time, location and magnitude. However, based on the seismological, geological, geophysical and geotechnical studies, the country has been divided into four seismic zones. *i.e.* zone ll-V. The siesmic zonation map is published by the Bureau of Indian Standards. As per the map, zone V is considered to be the most vulnerable to earthquake occurence, while the zone II is the least.

(c) The Department of Science & Technology has a major programme on Global Positioning System (GPS) aided crustal deformation studies. Under this 30 permanent GPS stations have been established in different parts of the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Stem-cell research

1807. SHRI RAJEEVSHUKLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel a need for regulating stem-cell research in India;

(b) if so, the details of any legislation being considered in this behalf; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?